

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 13-16, and 31-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claims 31-42 are added, and claims 17-30 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for new claims 31-42 can be found in Figures 4 and 6d. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended by Examiner Lee on October 2, 2007 in a personal interview. As discussed in the interview, Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define the claimed embodiment. See for example amended claim 1 and Figures 4 and 6d.

1. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action's rejection of claims 1-4 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Dodelet et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,887,451, hereinafter referred to as "*Dodelet*") is maintained.

As discussed in the interview, *Dodelet* fails to disclose or suggest carbon nanotubes that include a main axis region with a terminal portion and a first portion, wherein the terminal portion is located on the main axis region opposite from the carbon substrate and the first portion is located between the terminal portion and the carbon substrate, and wherein one or more branches branch out from the first portions to form branched carbon nanotubes. Rather, *Dodelet* discloses "straight nanotubes [that] suddenly become curved and change their structure at their tips." See col. 4, lines 20-24 and Fig. 5 of *Dodelet*. Thus *Dodelet* has "straight nanotubes"

with changes in “structure at their tips” and fails to disclose or suggest “one or more branches [branching] out from first portions to form branched carbon nanotubes.”

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4 and 13-16 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. New Claims

New claims 31-42 are added to the application. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 31-32, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Additionally, claim 33 recites a branched carbon nanotube comprising a carbon nanotube main axis region comprising a first end portion, a second end portion, and a middle portion between the first and second end portions; and one or more branch regions branching out from the middle portion of the main axis region, which Applicants submit is allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 34-36, which depend from claim 33, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 33 is allowable. Finally, claim 37 recites a branched carbon nanotube comprising a main axis portion with two or more branch portions emanating from the main axis portion, which Applicants submit is allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 38-42, which depend from claim 37 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 37 is allowable.

3. Conclusion

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below if any issues remain in this matter, or if a discussion regarding any portion of the application is desired by the Examiner.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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